

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /145 W

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R 061405Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

COMIDEASTFOR

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2449

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MCAP, SA, IR

SUBJ: PRINCE SULTAN'S COMMENTS ON GULF SECURITY AND SUEZ CANAL

REF A) TEHRAN 3524; B) JIDDA 2981 DTD 7/17/73

, C) JIDDA 3105 DTD 7/24/73

SUMMARY: FBIS ACCOUNT OF SAUDI MINDEFENSE AND AVIATION
SULTAN'S REMARKS TO VISITING WAR COLLEGE GROUP APRIL 28
IS FAIRLY ACCURATE IF TRUNCATED RENDERING. (SAUDIS TAPED
THE SESSION.) END SUMMARY.

1. REMARKS QUOTED BY FBIS AND ABOUT THWICH IRANIAN FONOFF
OFFICIAL ENQUIRED WERE GIVEN EXTEMPORANEOUSLY BY SULTAN IN
RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF WAR COLLEGE GROUP IN A
MEETING APRIL 28. QUOTED PORTIONS ARE QUITE ACCURATE.
MANY OF WAR COLLEGE QUESTIONS RELATED TO ISSUE OF
SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THE GULF REGION.

2. AS NO NEWSMEN WERE PRESENT DURING MEETING, THE ACCOUNT
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WHICH APPEARED IN THE NEWSPAPERS AND WAS CARRIED BY STATE

RADIO WAS CLEARLY WHAT SAG WISHED TO BE MADE PUBLIC.
THE REMARKS SEEM SOMEWHAT MORE POINTED IN THE FBIS VERSION,
BUT SULTAN ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS MADE THE POINT
THAT IRAN HAS LEGITIMATE SECURITY INTERESTS IN THE GULF
BUT NO SPECIAL ROLE TO PLAY AND THERE IS NO "POWER
VACUUM" THERE WHICH NEEDS BE FILLED BY NON-ARAB STATES.
THIS IS REPETITION OF A THEME MADE IN SPEECH LAST JULY (REF B).

FYI: REPLY QUOTED BY FBIS RESPONDED TO SOMEWHAT PROVOCATIVE
QUERY WHETHER SAUDI ARABIA FELT ITS SECURITY
MENACED BY MASSIVE IRANIAN ARMS BUILDUP. AT THE TIME
SULTAN'S REMARKS SEEMED MOST DIPLOMATIC. END FY.

3. SULTAN'S COMMENTS ON THE OPENING OF THE SUEZ
CANAL ARE ALSO QUITE ACCURATELY REPORTED BUT OUT OF
CONTEXT. THE THRUST OF SULTAN'S RATHER LENGTHY REMARKS
ON THIS SUBJECT WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE OPENING OF
THE CANAL SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS A GOAL ATTAINED BUT
RATHER AS ONE STEP TOWARDS FINAL PEACE IN THE MIDDLE
EAST. IN ANSWERING THIS AND A NUMBER OF OTHER QUESTIONS
SULTAN AVOIDED PRECISION ON SAG VIEWS OF THE SOVIET
THREAT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN/ARABIAN GULF REGION.

4. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO EMBASSY TEHRAN'S DRAWING ON
FOREGOING IN TALKING WITH IRANIAN OFFICIALS.
AKINS

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